

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 730
By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kenneth D. Higgins for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community
leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Kenneth D. Higgins, CEO of Santek
Environmental, Inc., who was named the Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year at the
kickoff luncheon for Business Development Month in May 2003; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, whose family roots there date from the
mid 1800's, Kenneth Higgins, as a young man, undertook the revitalization of his father's heavy
construction business; discerning the need for local government to professionalize landfill
operations, he founded Santek Environmental, Inc. in 1985; and

WHEREAS, starting with six employees, Mr. Higgins has grown his company to 51 local
employees and another 200 scattered across the southeastern United States; in 1987, Santek
secured its first landfill agreement with a second agreement in the following year; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Santek assumed operation of its third Tennessee landfill and
secured a ten year renewal on its second landfill agreement; in 1995, Kenneth Higgins secured
the largest privatization contract in the history of Wake County, North Carolina and that same
year co-purchased the former Cherokee Valley Bank Building for Santek's Cleveland corporate
headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Higgins established Santek Engineering PC, a full service
engineering company, to complement Santek Environmental's landfill personnel; the following
year he assumed operation of a fourth landfill in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. Higgins founded Santek's first collection subsidiary, Waste Services of Mississippi, and simultaneously assumed operation of the company's first Mississippi-based landfill and its third North Carolina landfill; his second collection subsidiary, Waste Services of Tennessee, was founded in 1999, and he assumed operation of Santek's first industrial-owned landfill that year; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, *Waste Age* magazine recognized Santek Environmental as a leader in a highly competitive industry, ranking it 54th, based on company size and revenue; in the year 2000, *Waste Age* featured Santek on its cover and ranked the company 46th among the nations solid waste management companies, a rank that it maintains to this day; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Kenneth Higgins secured operation of the Polk County landfill in Livingston, Texas and the following year began operation of the Murray County landfill in Chatsworth, Georgia; today the company manages daily the disposal needs of more than two million people who generate in excess of 5,000 tons of solid waste per day, resulting in a 30 percent annual growth rate in revenues; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Higgins dynamic and innovative leadership, Santek's public-private partnerships have been recognized nationally by the Solid Waste Association of North America, as well as by state regulatory agencies in Tennessee and North Carolina; in 1993, he testified before Congress on behalf of local governments' rights to implement solid waste flow control ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Higgins operates his businesses on the biblical principals of honesty, integrity, faith, fairness, stewardship and compassion; he has made a mark with his quiet and unassuming leadership in his community, channeling financial resources into a variety of community programs, and donating time and resources to regional, national and international endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Higgins established the Agape Love Foundation, a Christian ministry dedicated to the will of God and help for those in need; the foundation serves as a channel for resources to a number of organizations, missions and individuals, including Tennessee Christian Academy, New Hope Pregnancy Care Center, worldwide television ministries of Central Baptist Church of Hixon, Campus Crusade for Christ, Macedonia Ministries,

Mexican Church renovation projects, India outreach ministry and several foreign missionaries; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Agape Love Foundation has contributed thousands of dollars to Tennessee Christian Academy, Cleveland's only accredited nondenominational parochial school, securing its future and making it affordable for local students; Kenneth Higgins has hosted annual fundraisers for the school, established scholarships, contributed to construction of the school's playground and is the major contributor for enhancing the infrastructure for the school's new property; and

WHEREAS, Santek is Tennessee Christian Academy's official private partner through the Business and Education Serving Together (BEST) program of the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Higgins' love for his community and the outdoors was expressed by his contribution toward the construction of the Tri-State Exhibition Center, which emphasizes education and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Higgins has pledged funds over the years for the Boys Club football program and has contributed earthmoving work for the new baseball park in the Hopewell community; he has donated funds to the McDonald Ruritan Club's community center and Walker Valley High School's baseball field. Santek was a platinum sponsor for the first annual golf tournament for the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Elizabeth and his son, Phillip; they are devout and faithful members of Central Baptist Church of Hixon; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Kenneth Higgins for his energy, innovation, and commitment to professional excellence, his dedication to his community and to the State of Tennessee and his compassion for and generosity to those in need; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Kenneth D. Higgins upon being named

the Mel Bedwell Small Businessperson of the Year, thank him for his meritorious service to his community and humanity, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.